



MURDER ACROSS JURISDICTIONS: ESSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY STOPS A KILLER WITH NIBIN

MAY 2000



The Essex County, New Jersey, Sheriff's Office is one of many departments that have entered into a partnership with ATF in combating violent crime. In June 1996, the Essex County Sheriff's Office obtained Integrated Ballistics Identification System (IBIS) technology from the ATF National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) Program. It was anticipated that this type of technology would assist law enforcement in a county that yielded a disproportionate amount of the State's firearms related crimes. Two particularly violent incidents in or impacting Essex County occurred in March 1997.

On March 17, 1997, a restaurant owner was murdered execution style after three masked gunmen entered and robbed his restaurant in New Britain, Connecticut.

On March 30, two teenagers were murdered in a gang-related incident in Paterson, New Jersey. A third teenager was shot in both legs. The Paterson Police Department identified a suspect and obtained information that the suspect lived in New Britain, Connecticut. The Paterson police contacted the New Britain Police Department and requested their assistance in locating their suspect. Furthermore, the Paterson Police Department had information that the suspect may have been involved in a homicide in New Britain, prior to the

shootings in Paterson. Several days later, the New Britain police arrested the suspect, who was later charged in the Paterson homicides.

On April 27, 1998, the IBIS computer located at the Essex County Sheriff's Office, Newark, New Jersey, made a hit in Brasscatcher and Bulletproof on shell casings and bullet fragments recovered from both the New Britain and Paterson homicides.

On October 8, 1998, the State of Connecticut issued an arrest warrant for a suspect for his participation in the restaurant owner's murder.

On February 18, 2000, the same suspect was convicted of murder, manslaughter, and attempted murder in connection with the gang-related shooting in Paterson. The conviction was the result of a trial held in Passaic County, New Jersey. A detective from the Essex County Sheriff's Office provided expert testimony with regard to both the ballistics evidence obtained in the case and the use of the IBIS system.

Sentencing for this case took place on May 5, 2000. The defendant was sentenced to 88 years in prison, and will be ineligible for parole until 2040.